

Building Healthy Communities at Home and Abroad

Catalyzing the Impact of the U.S. Government's Efforts to Support Breastfeeding Families

August 13, 2019, 1–5 pm | Barbara Jordan Conference Center | Washington, DC

AGENDA

1:00–1:30	Registration	
1:30–1:45	Welcome	MASTER OF CEREMONIES Clifton Kenon (USAID)
	Opening Remarks	Dr. Monique Wubbenhorst DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (USAID)
	Introduction of Agenda	Dr. Altrena Mukuria (USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION)
1:45–2:15	Overview of Evidence	Dr. Jennifer Nelson (CDC) Elaine Gray (USAID) Dr. Dan Raiten (NIH)
2:15–2:45	Panel of Mothers and WIC Peer Counselors	MODERATOR Anne Bartholomew (USDA/FNS)
		PANELISTS Alejandra Quintanilla (PEER COUNSELOR, CCI HEALTH AND WELLNESS WIC, MARYLAND) Chrisonne Henderson (PEER COUNSELOR, CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM WIC, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA) Zeida Cortez (PEER COUNSELOR, UNITY HEALTH CARE WIC, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)
2:45–2:55	Break	
2:55–3:50	DISCUSSION Support for Families to Breastfeed in Workplaces and in the Community	MODERATOR Elizabeth Bontrager (USAID)
		PANELISTS Christine Schott (DOL) Dr. Jane Balkam and Dr. Candice Dawes (MD/DC BREASTFEEDING COALITIONS) Jennifer Burns (CRS)
3:50–4:45	DISCUSSION Skilled Support for Breastfeeding and Maternity Care	MODERATOR Jeniece Alvey (USAID)
		PANELISTS Jennifer Nelson (CDC) Dr. Justine Kavle (PATH) Sarah O'Flynn (SAVE THE CHILDREN)
4:45–5:00	Closing Remarks and Wrap-up	Dr. Yibo Wood (USDA/FNS)



BACKGROUND

As a leader in global nutrition and development, the U.S. Government recognizes the critical role that the 1,000-day window between pregnancy and a child's second birthday has on child growth, physical and cognitive development, and disease mitigation, as well as on maternal health. Multiple U.S. Government agencies promote optimal infant and young child feeding practices through research, policy, and program implementation. As outlined in the *U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan*, launched in 2016, these agencies identify strategic opportunities to increase the impact of U.S. Government assistance that catalyzes progress toward global nutrition targets, including improvement in the exclusive breastfeeding rate. Cross-U.S. Government partnerships, learning, and coordination can amplify the impact of resources to promote and support breastfeeding thus improving maternal and child health and nutrition worldwide.

Recognizing the vital role breastfeeding plays in the long-term health and development of individuals and countries, the Coordination Plan's First 1,000 Days sub-working group will provide a forum for those interested in and working on maternal and child health and nutrition, both domestically and internationally, to share research, best practices, and program approaches, as well as explore linkages between domestic and international breastfeeding work. Hosted by USAID, this half-day event will feature a wide range of speakers, including local breastfeeding champions, advocates, U.S. Government representatives, implementing partners, grantees, and

others. Throughout the event, discussions will center on linkages between domestic and international efforts to support and promote breastfeeding. By sharing best practices and identifying areas for enhanced collaboration across agencies and organizations, the Global Nutrition Coordination Plan's First 1,000 Days sub-group aims to further catalyze progress toward domestic and global breastfeeding goals.

OBJECTIVES

In line with the U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan objectives, this event aims to:

1. Bring together U.S. Government agencies, implementing partners, external stakeholders, civil society, and other breastfeeding advocates to identify, discuss, and share best practices for how breastfeeding programs and approaches can improve maternal and child health and nutrition domestically and around the world
2. Increase awareness of and similarities between U.S. Government investments to improve breastfeeding in the U.S. and internationally
3. Highlight breastfeeding as a key solution to building self-reliance, enhancing resilience, breaking the cycle of poverty, and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and Healthy People 2020 Goals
4. Enhance linkages between domestic and international maternal and child health and nutrition supporters and advocates

SPEAKERS

Jeniece Alvey, MPH, IBCLC

Jeniece Alvey is a nutrition advisor at USAID in the Bureau for Global Health. She brings more than eight years' experience in global reproductive, maternal, and child health and nutrition. As a technical advisor, Jeniece supports activities to use multi-sectoral approaches to improve the nutrition of women and children globally. She also provides technical support to USAID Missions in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Guatemala, and other U.S. Government inter-agency efforts.

Prior to joining USAID, Jeniece worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Carolina Population Center for the Measurement, Learning & Evaluation Project, implementing impact evaluations for reproductive health programs in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and India. She also worked on various maternal and child nutrition research studies in Guatemala with the Center for Studies of Sensory Impairment, Aging and Metabolism (CeSSIAM); and, domestically, in Boston, Massachusetts, with Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

Jeniece earned her master's degree in maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and she is an international board certified lactation consultant.

Dr. Jane Johnston Balkam, PhD, APRN, CPNP, IBCLC

Jane Balkam is a nationally certified pediatric nurse practitioner and lactation consultant. She has practiced nursing in a variety of settings. Since 1991, she has owned Babies 'n Business, LLC, a lactation consulting practice specializing in worksite lactation programs. She developed and has managed worksite lactation programs for both private corporations and federal government agencies. Jane is also an associate professor of nursing at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore, Maryland. Today, she is representing the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition.

Jane received her PhD from the Union Institute and University. She received a BSN from Georgetown University and an MSN from the University of Rochester.

Anne Bartholomew, MS, RD

Anne Bartholomew is the chief of the Nutrition Services Branch in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs, Supplemental Food Programs Division.

Anne has worked with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for more than 30 years, holding a variety of nutrition-related and administrative positions at the local, state, and federal level of WIC Nutrition Services. In her current position, she provides technical expertise and leadership in policy development, program and management issues for WIC nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, supplemental foods and food packages, program coordination, and referral issues.

Elizabeth Bontrager, MS

Elizabeth Bontrager is the nutrition team lead in USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP), where promotion of breastfeeding is a critical component of FFP's efforts to address malnutrition through emergency, recovery, and development food security activities.

Before joining FFP, Elizabeth served as a nutrition advisor with USAID's Bureau for Global Health. Prior to USAID, she worked in a research and evaluation capacity with the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University, supporting research partnerships with Save the Children and Concern Worldwide in Ethiopia and Chad.

Elizabeth has a master's degree in food policy and applied nutrition from Tufts University.

Jennifer Burns, MSPH

Jennifer Burns is a senior nutrition advisor at Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, Maryland. As a senior advisor, she builds the capacity of colleagues and partners to implement evidence-based nutrition programs and contributes to the agency's strategic planning for international nutrition programming and research. For the past 6 years, Jennifer has served as co-chair of the Core Group Nutrition Working Group.

For more than 19 years, Jennifer worked for a number of organizations in the United States and internationally providing technical support to nutrition and food security programs. She has experience in program development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Her research includes field work in animal source foods in young child feeding in Ethiopia; maternal, infant, and young child nutrition practices in the Democratic Republic of Congo; iron-folic acid supplements to address maternal anemia in Madagascar; indigenous foods to improve young child feeding in Senegal; and improving complementary feeding practices in Timor-Leste. Jennifer was also a public health educator with the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan.

She holds an MS in public health in human nutrition from Johns Hopkins University. She is currently pursuing credentials to become an internationally board-certified lactation consultant.

Dr. Candice Dawes, MD

Candice Dawes has been a member of the District of Columbia Breastfeeding Coalition (DCBFC) since 2014. Currently, she is the treasurer. For the last four years, she has led the DCBFC in organizing the annual Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Awards and HealthCare Professionals Breastfeeding Friendly Awards. Candice is committed to decreasing health disparities within the city, passionate about breastfeeding and its numerous health benefits, and dedicated to assisting families who want to breastfeed.

She is a board certified pediatrician who practices at a community site with Children's National Health System in Anacostia D.C. and an active member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Elaine Gray, MS, MPH

Elaine Gray is a nutrition advisor in the Nutrition and Environmental Health Division of the Office of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition at USAID. Her main responsibilities include coordinating and managing USAID's nutrition projects and investments and providing technical assistance to USAID missions in several countries. She also serves as co-chair on the Technical Working Group for the U.S. Government's Global Nutrition Coordination Plan.

She has worked in the Bureau for Global Health at USAID since 2013. Prior to joining USAID, Elaine

worked with the Clinton Foundation and Clinton Health Access Initiative in Boston, Togo, and India, and conducted research with the USAID-funded Nutrition Collaborative Research Program and Food Aid Quality Review at Tufts University, and the Childhood Obesity Intervention Cost-Effectiveness Study at the Harvard University School of Public Health.

Elaine holds a BA in anthropology and French from the University of British Columbia, an MS in food policy and applied nutrition, an MPH in global health, and a certificate in sustainable agriculture and food systems from Tufts University. She is also certified in lactation counseling.

Dr. Justine A. Kavle, MPH, PhD

Justine A. Kavle is the nutrition team lead for USAID's Maternal and Child Health Program (MCSP). She has 15 years of program design and implementation experience, including the generation and use of evidence to inform on nutrition programming in low- and middle-income countries.

Prior to MCSP, Justine was the principal investigator on the USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) project. The study examined factors associated with child stunting and overweight in Egypt. She has also provided technical advice and guidance on maternal and child anemia and vitamin A supplementation programming with Helen Keller International, UNICEF west and central Africa, and World Vision.

Justine received both a PhD in human nutrition and an MPH from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of International Health, Division of Human Nutrition.

Clifton Kenon, DNP, MSN, RNC, IBCLC

Clifton Kenon led the first hospitals within the Indian Health Service to become Baby-Friendly in North and South Dakota. He created the first national nurse residency program that trained nurses to work in resource-constrained rural areas. He also wrote the *National Indian Health Service Breastfeeding Protection Guidelines*. Clifton was recognized by the U.S. Surgeon General with the 2011 Lucille Woodville Award and was the first nurse and the youngest person to receive the Indian Health Service Reyes Award. Clifton has lectured worldwide and published

on human lactation and reproductive health. Currently, he serves as the chief of Diversity and Inclusion Programs at USAID.

Clifton holds a doctorate in nursing from Chatam University and is a board certified lactation consultant.

Dr. Altrena Mukuria, PhD, CLS

Altrena Mukuria, a senior nutrition advisor, works on the Nutrition and Health Systems team of the USAID Advancing Nutrition Project. A seasoned global health specialist, she has more than 30 years' experience in complex nutrition and health programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Altrena's published works have included papers on engaging fathers and grandmothers in infant and young child feeding in Western Kenya. Previously, she served as the director of country initiatives on the recently completed Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations for Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project.

Altrena completed her doctoral studies in public health at Johns Hopkins University; her dissertation focused on exclusive breastfeeding and the role of social support and social networks. Recently, she completed training as a certified lactation specialist. Altrena is working toward becoming an International Board of Lactation consultant examiner.

Dr. Jennifer Nelson, MPH, MD

Jennifer Nelson is a medical epidemiologist in the Nutrition Branch at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Her work on the Maternal, Infant, and Toddler Nutrition team focuses on improving national breastfeeding rates, breastfeeding-related maternity care practices, and early child nutrition. Prior to medical school, Jennifer worked as an epidemiologist at the CDC in the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch.

She received her medical degree from Morehouse School of Medicine and completed her pediatric residency at Emory University in Atlanta. In addition, she has an MPH in epidemiology from Emory University.

Sarah O'Flynn, MPH, MA

Sarah O'Flynn is director of Emergency Nutrition with Save the Children. She spent the last 12 years focusing on the health of children and pregnant and

breastfeeding women in emergencies with a focus on response programming, capacity strengthening, and operations research. She has supported infant and young child feeding responses in Haiti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Myanmar, Ukraine, the Philippines, Syria, and the United States. Sarah also manages an infant and young child feeding in emergencies capacity building and innovation program and operations research project funded by USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. The project focuses on testing and revising re-lactation protocols for emergencies and the management of at-risk mothers and infants.

Sarah joined Save the Children as an emergency nutrition program manager in Darfur, Sudan, after which she transitioned to a senior health and nutrition role with Save the Children in South Sudan. In 2010, Sarah moved to Save the Children's home office in Washington, DC, as an emergency nutrition advisor.

She holds an MPH and a master's degree in international affairs, both focused on forced migration and humanitarian affairs.

Dr. Daniel J. Raiten, BA, BS, PhD

Daniel Raiten, currently the program director for nutrition at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, manages a portfolio of extramural grants covering all aspects of nutrition and maternal and child development. He also serves as the content expert on numerous United States Government and international technical working groups.

Educated in history and political science (BA) and animal science/agriculture (BS/MS), Daniel received his doctorate in human nutrition from Pennsylvania State University. He followed that with a postdoctoral fellowship at the Child Study Center of Yale University Medical School.

Christine Schott, MS

Christine Schott is a senior advisor with the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, Branch of the Family and Medical Leave Act and Other Labor Standards. Christine has worked for the Wage and Hour Division for more than 20 years. Prior to her current position, Christine worked for the

Wage and Hour Division as a field investigator and manager and as a regional enforcement coordinator and strategic planning officer.

A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Christine graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, and Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Dr. Yibo Wood, PhD

Yibo Wood is the global nutrition coordinator for the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has worked in the field of nutrition education and food assistance programs for more than 27 years, at the federal, state, and international levels. She provides and coordinates technical expertise and support to establish and implement nutrition assistance programs for countries interested in learning about the U.S. experience. She has worked with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, academia, program implementers, and grantees.

She was the co-chair of the USG Global Nutrition Coordination Technical Working Group from 2016–2018 and senior advisor for Nutrition and Health at USDA's Office of the Chief Scientist in 2015–2016.

Dr. Monique Wubbenhorst, MD, MPH, FACOG, FAHA

Monique Wubbenhorst, a deputy assistant administrator, currently serves in the Bureau for Global Health at USAID. Monique has more than 20 years' experience as a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist, with experience in international health and policy and research in women's health.

Monique's clinical career has focused on providing obstetric and gynecological care for underserved and disadvantaged populations. Her work has involved teaching, research, health policy, and patient care in multiple domestic and international health systems, including inner city Boston, rural North Carolina, and Native American reservations in the U.S. She also worked in India, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Ghana, South Sudan, Nepal, Cameroon, and South Sudan. She chaired the Women and Special Populations Committee at the American Heart Association and served as a senior consultant to the U.S. Veterans Administration. She has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications, and her research interests include the epidemiology and molecular biology of adverse pregnancy outcomes and reproductive health, health services research, and ethics in reproductive health.

Monique graduated from Mount Holyoke College; she received her medical degree from Brown University and her MPH from Harvard University. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and, subsequently, did her postdoctoral fellowship in health services research at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She then joined the faculty at Duke University School of Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2003. She was a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and of the American Heart Association and a senior public policy fellow at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture.